



PUBLICATION F100-022-000 [12/2003]

## *"The Original Four-Year Degree"*

### **Apprenticeship training programs include:**

- automotive machinist
- boilermaker
- bricklayer
- carpenter
- cement mason
- commercial glazier
- corrections officer
- dispensing optician
- electrician
- firefighter
- insulation applicator
- meat cutter
- pipe fitter
- plumber
- roofer
- sprinkler fitter
- stationary engineer
- tool and die maker
- traffic control painter
- tree trimmer
- utility wire worker
- and many more

# Apprenticeship

## Building a skilled work force

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### **What is apprenticeship?**

Apprenticeship combines classroom studies with on-the-job training supervised by a journey-level craft person or trade professional. Like a college education, it takes several years to become fully trained in the fields that offer apprenticeships.

As an apprentice, you'll earn while you learn. At first, you'll make less money than skilled workers do. As you progress, you'll get regular raises and, once you've mastered the craft, you'll receive the same wages as a professional.

### **Why should I choose apprenticeship?**

#### **Proven success.**

Today's carpenters, electricians and plumbers were yesterday's apprentices. And tomorrow's asbestos workers, communication technicians and health care coordinators may be apprenticeship "graduates" as well. You can find apprenticeship opportunities in many long-standing and emerging occupations.

#### **Proven methods.**

Whatever your field of interest, you will be taught by experienced trades people. You'll take at least 144 hours of related classes each year. And you'll have a chance to practice your new skills as you gain the necessary technical knowledge to do your job well.

#### **Higher wages.**

Workers who finish apprenticeships generally earn more during their working years than those who don't learn their skills in a formal training program.

#### **Advancement potential.**

Apprentices who become journey-level workers usually advance more rapidly than other workers. Higher-paying jobs often come more quickly. Some apprentices move into supervisory positions within just a few years.

#### **Equal opportunity.**

All apprenticeship programs must provide equal opportunity to all interested individuals. In fact, employers with five or more apprentices must show they are making a special effort to hire women and minorities. They are required to file a written affirmative action plan with the Department of Labor and Industries.





***There are more than 250 apprenticeship programs in Washington State.***



## **Documented training.**

When you complete your apprenticeship, you'll become a qualified journey-level worker in your chosen occupation. You'll receive a state-issued certificate valid anywhere in the United States that identifies you as a qualified professional in your field.

## **Requirements**

**Some apprenticeship programs may have additional prerequisites. General requirements are:**

- **Age.** Many programs require you to be at least 18 years old. In some cases, apprenticeships may begin at age 17.
- **Education.** Most trades will require you to have a high school diploma or GED certificate. You may need specific mathematical training to enter certain trades. Basic reading and writing skills are also expected.
- **Physical ability.** Some trades may be unsuitable for people who don't have the necessary strength or stamina to perform the required work.
- **Aptitude.** You may be asked to take an aptitude test to see whether you're suited to the trade that interests you.

## **How do I become an apprentice?**

Choose your trade carefully. Be sure it makes the most of your special talents. Visit work sites and ask people about their jobs. Would you enjoy doing what they do? Remember, apprenticeship is a commitment that prepares you for a lifetime career.

You may want to contact a Labor and Industries' apprenticeship coordinator for assistance. In instances where you need to find an employer to hire you as an apprentice, L&I can give you tips to make the search easier.

## **Local Apprenticeship Coordinators**

- **Northwest Washington (Region 1)** 360-416-3026
- **King County (Region 2)** 206-835-1027 or 206-835-1028
- **Pierce County/Central Peninsula (Region 3)**  
253-596-3930
- **Southwest Washington (Region 4)** 360-575-6927  
or 360-902-6781
- **Central Washington (Region 5)** 509-764-6906
- **Eastern Washington (Region 6)** 509-324-2590

## **Statewide Apprenticeship Program**

Department of Labor and Industries

Apprenticeship Section

PO Box 44530

Olympia, WA 98504-4530

360-902-5324 or 360-902-5320

E-mail: [APPRENTICE@LNI.WA.GOV](mailto:APPRENTICE@LNI.WA.GOV)

Web site: [Apprenticeship.LNI.wa.gov](http://Apprenticeship.LNI.wa.gov)

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